

1951

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON

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December 12, 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: Congressional Publication of Information of
Advantage to Foreign Governments

REFERENCES: A. Memo for NSC from Executive Secretary,
same subject, dated May 16, 1951
B. NSC Action No. 478
C. Memo for NSC from Executive Secretary,
same subject, dated June 15, 1951

After further consideration, which has emphasized both the serious nature of the subject problem and the difficulties and disadvantages connected with attempts to effect a general solution, the Senior NSC Staff has reached the following conclusions which are submitted herewith for consideration by the National Security Council in lieu of the recommendations contained in Reference C:

1. Direct approaches to the Congress or key Members thereof on the general problem are not recommended at this time, since in all probability such approaches would not succeed in accomplishing the purposes intended.
2. With respect to information distributed to foreign governments by the Library of Congress on the basis of library exchange agreements (the fourth category listed in the enclosure to Reference A*), further action should await completion of a study of the matter which is now in preparation by the Interdepartmental Committee on Internal Security.
3. With respect to the remaining categories listed in the enclosure to Reference A:

*The five categories of disclosures of information listed in the enclosure to Reference A are reproduced in an attachment to this memorandum.

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- a. Each department or agency concerned should be directed to exercise greater care in the pre-publication screening, from the standpoint of national security, of information to be released to the Government Printing Office for publication (category five).
- b. Each department or agency furnishing to Members of Congress or Congressional Committees information having national security significance, or inviting Members of Congress to observe government operations, should be directed to emphasize to such Members of Congress or Congressional Committees, on a continuing basis, the necessity of preventing disclosures of information of advantage to foreign governments (categories one, two and three).

It is requested that each Council Member, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Attorney General and the Director of Defense Mobilization indicate his action with respect to the above recommendations by completing and returning the attached memorandum form.*

JAMES S. LAY, Jr.
Executive Secretary

cc: The Secretary of the Treasury
The Attorney General
The Director of Defense Mobilization

*Voting form not enclosed

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ATTACHMENT A

CATEGORIES OF CONGRESSIONAL DISCLOSURES OF
INFORMATION OF ADVANTAGE TO FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS

1. Information, sometimes classified, which is concerned with internal security and which is received by Congressional committee in executive session;
2. Information received in connection with hearings on appropriations or on proposed legislation which is later correlated and published in such form as to be of interest from a national security standpoint to subversive elements and potentially hostile powers;
3. Information obtained by members of the Congress while participating as observers in government operations, often military or technological in nature;
4. Information of strategic and technological value to the national security which is distributed to Iron Curtain countries, as well as other nations, by the Library of Congress on the basis of so-called library exchange agreements; and
5. Information obtained by the Government Printing Office from legislative sources and issued in Government Printing Office publications which are publicly available.

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